

**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 5**

DATE: July 20, 2001

SUBJECT: Reports of Significant Developments and Activities
Ending on July 16, 2001

FROM: William E. Muno, Director
Superfund Division

TO: David A. Ullrich
Acting Regional Administrator

Bharat Mathur
Acting Deputy Regional Administrator

The activities listed below are organized by site-specific activities, other significant developments, training/conferences, and stakeholder feedback:

SITE-SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES

**Construction Completion Availability Session, H.O.D. Landfill
Superfund Site, Antioch, Illinois**

On July 10, 2001, United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) Remedial Project Manager (RPM) Ron Murawski conducted a public availability session in the Antioch, Illinois, Village Hall. Mr. Murawski was assisted by Office of Public Affairs Community Involvement Coordinator Mike Joyce, U.S. EPA oversight contractor Roy F. Weston, Inc., and one of the potentially responsible parties (PRPs), Waste Management, Inc.

Mr. Murawski and the others explained details of and answered questions about the construction completion, upcoming operations and maintenance activities, and potential redevelopment for the site. Mr. Murawski informed the public that separate redevelopment meetings will be held with the public if redevelopment plans progress. Few of the public attended the availability session.

Contact: Ron Murawski (312-886-2940)

Black Lagoon Remediation Meeting, Trenton, Michigan

On July 16, 2001, Bill Muno attended a meeting with Congressman

John Dingell in Trenton, Michigan, to discuss the delays in proceeding with the removal of about 35,000 cubic yards of contaminated sediments from a small inlet in the Detroit River known as the Black Lagoon. This lagoon contains heavy metals and oil wastes from a former steel plant. Remedial work has been delayed due to a dispute between the State of Michigan and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers over the use of a confined disposal facility (CDF) for the dredged sediments. The State, the Corps, and local officials also participated in the meeting. Congressman Dingell generally gathered facts about the dispute and did not advocate any particular solution other than to state that he would like to see the project move forward. Oral arguments in the U.S. Court of Appeals on a similar dispute will occur on August 7, 2001. The Congressman stated that until the Court of Appeals issues a ruling, he did not feel the Black Lagoon dispute could be resolved. Other Region 5 staff participating in the meeting included Laura Lodisio, Dave Cowgill, Rose Ellison, and Jeff Gahriss.

Contact: Bill Munro (312-886-7578)

Assistance To Department of Justice, NL Industries Superfund Site, Granite City, Illinois

On May 22, 2001, an E-mail from Steven Willey of the U.S. Department of Justice was received by Carolyn D. Bohlen, Chief, Documents Management Section. U.S. EPA's identification of three de minimis Federal potentially responsible parties (PRPs) at the NL Industries Superfund site in Granite City, Illinois, occurred so late in the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA) process, timing of the de minimis settlement might be impacted. In order to minimize any disruption to schedules, Fred Gage was requested to copy and forward PRP files to Mr. Willey by overnight delivery. The express delivery of these documents was made to Mr. Willey to be reviewed by representatives of the Environmental Defense Section for appropriate decision making.

Contact: Fred Gage (312-353-3167)

OTHER SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS

Development, First U.S. EPA Internet Auction

Gail Nabasny and Lorraine Kosik recently participated with U.S. EPA Headquarters (HQ) Office of Acquisition Management (OAM) property officials in developing the Agency's first internet

sale. At this auction over 15 years worth of government purchased contractor removal equipment is being liquidated. Equipment consists of generators, field supplies, radiation meters, and desks and chairs.

To view this equipment simply go to www.bid4assets.com. The auction will be open for 10 days and there is a minimum bid of \$25 for each lot of goods. Remaining equipment will be offered to local fire departments, emergency agencies, etc. If you are aware of individual communities who may be interested in this material, please have them look into the web page or contact Gail Nabasny or Lorraine Kosik.

Contacts: Gail Nabasny (312-353-1056)
Lorraine Kosik (312-886-7580)

TRAINING/CONFERENCES

Meeting, Joint Canadian-U.S. Preparedness Team, Port Huron, Michigan

On July 11, 2001, Chris Christenson of the Oil Planning and Response Section attended the regular semiannual meeting of the Joint Preparedness Team in Port Huron, Michigan. This group is jointly chaired by the Canadian Coast Guard Central and Arctic Region and the U.S. Coast Guard's District 9. Membership includes Environment Canada, Transport Canada, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, in addition to the two Coast Guards and U.S. EPA. Agenda items included: the development of Shoreline Cleanup and Assessment Team membership and procedures; the development of protocols for shoreline cleaners and in situ burning; a proposed Activation/De-Activation Amendment to the Operations Protocol; the status of the Buffalo/Fort Erie Border Crossing Agreement; and, a review of joint responses initiated by the two Coast Guards during the January to June 2001 time period. There was also a presentation of the deployment component of the 2001 Joint Exercise and discussion of the status of planning for the full 2001 Joint Exercise scheduled for December 5-7, 2001, to be hosted by the Canadian Coast Guard. The next meeting is scheduled for the end of January 2002, in Cleveland, Ohio.

Contact: Chris Christenson (312-353-6303)

Eastern Wisconsin Sub-Area Meeting, Milwaukee, Wisconsin

On July 11, 2001, On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) Karen Vendl

participated in the Eastern Wisconsin Area Committee Meeting at the Coast Guard's Marine Safety Office in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. In attendance were representatives of the U.S. Coast Guard, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Wisconsin Emergency Management, Milwaukee County Emergency Management, among others. One of the major issues for discussion was the Coast Guard Industry-led Preparedness for Response Exercise Program (PREP) exercise which is scheduled for Spring of 2002. A draft scenario for the exercise was presented, and the design team was formed. The details of the exercise will be worked out in future meetings of the design team.

Contact: Karen Vendl (312-886-7194)

Great Lakes Spill Protection Initiative Meeting, Whiting, Indiana

On July 11-12, 2001, the Great Lakes Spill Protection Initiative Meeting was held in Whiting, Indiana. This is a meeting of a group, funded by the Great Lakes National Program Office, made up of oil industry, the eight Great Lakes States, and Federal partners, including U.S. EPA, the U.S. Coast Guard, the Department of the Interior, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. At this meeting, Ann Whelan and Betty Lavis gave a presentation on the Oil removal actions either taking place or being considered for the Indiana Harbor Canal. This presentation was followed by a discussion of the Natural Resource Damage Assessment that has taken place on the Canal. Other U.S. EPA personnel in attendance were Charlie Brasher and Sheila Calovich.

Contacts: Ann Whelan (312-886-7258)
Betty Lavis (312-886-7183)

STAKEHOLDER FEEDBACK

Letter of Appreciation, Akron Health Department, Akron, Ohio

On-Scene Coordinator Mark Durno received a letter of thanks from the Akron, Ohio, Health Department for his work at a residential mercury spill on June 23, 2001. They were appreciative of the professional way Mr Durno handled the cleanup and his compassionate manner in dealing with the residents. He has also been asked to present a training session on mercury cleanups to local health, fire, hazmat departments, the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (Ohio EPA), and the Board of Education some time during the months of July or August 2001.

Contact: Jason El-Zein (734-692-7661)

Thanks for Community Involvement Effort, U.S. Army Jefferson Proving Ground Site, City of Madison, Indiana

A note of gratitude and appreciation was received from the Honorable Al Huntington, Mayor, City of Madison, Indiana, for the community involvement efforts of Remedial Project Manager (RPM) Karen Mason-Smith regarding seeking answers on the status of depleted uranium (DU) at U.S. Army Jefferson Proving Ground Site, Madison, Indiana. During a Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) Public Comment meeting, Ms. Mason-Smith provided oral comments that were included in the Army's Public Record Report and quoted in the Madison Courier (local newspaper).

Ms. Mason-Smith received a copy of the newspaper article from Mayor Huntington, along with the following note: "Karen, I know that you're trying to help us with this issue and I appreciate it. Please continue! Thank You. Sincerely, Al Huntington."

Contact: Karen Mason-Smith (312-886-6150)

cc: Barry Breen (OECA)
Steve Luftig (OSWER)
Larry Reed (OERR)
Larry Zaragoza (OSWER)
Craig Beasley (OSWER)
Michael Shapiro (OSWER)
Sylvia Lowrance (OECA)
Region 5 State Superfund Coordinators
Division/Office Directors
ORA State Coordinators
Regional Team Managers